

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, XF, IS

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS STEPS UP ATTACK ON ISRAELI

ACTIONS IN LEBANON

1. SUMMARY: SOVIET PRESS (MAY 22) ESCALATES OUTCRY AGAINST ISRAELI ATTACKS ON PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON AND CHARGES THAT ISRAELI LEADERSHIP DELIBERATELY BROUGHT ON BLOODSHED AT MAALOT TO JUSTIFY ATTACKS. AT SAME TIME, PRESS VAGUELY HINTS THAT DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT IS POSSIBLE. END SUMMARY.

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2. TASS COMMENT ON MAALOT KILLINGS BY S. KULIK (RED STAR MAY 22, TEXT TASS ENGLISH WIRE MAY 20, BUT NOT IN PRAVDA OR IZVESTIYA) IS STRONGEST YET. IT EQUATES DAYAN WITH ADOLF EICHMANN: BOTH WERE KILLERS OF JEWISH CHILDREN AND BOTH (EICHMANN AT POLISH BORDER IN 1939 AND DAYAN AT MAALOT) ORGANIZED MURDER OF THEIR OWN CITIZENS TO JUSTIFY OCCUPATION

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OF FOREIGN LANDS.

3. IZVESTIYA COMMENTARY BY OSIPOV (MAY 21, SUMMARIZED ON TASS ENGLISH WIRE MAY 21) CHARGES PROSPECT OF ME SETTLEMENT " CLEARLY DOES NOT SUIT ISRAELI LEADERS" WHO FEAR CHANGES IN PUBLIC OPINION AND POLICIES OF WESTERN STATES IN FAVOR OF ARABS AND ARE INCENSED THAT WORLD SEES ISRAEL AS OBSTACLE TO CEASEFIRE ON GOLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SC RESOLUTION 242. THIS EXPLAINS ISRAELI ACTION AT MAALOT WHICH TEL AVIV SEEKS TO USE AS PRETEXT FOR JUSTIFYING ATTACKS AGAINST PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON. OSIPOV CONCLUDES THAT ISRAELI LEADERS NEED ME TENSION, BUT WORLD WILL NOT FORGIVE DAYAN AND HIS COHORTS FOR ATTEMPT TO TURN MASS MURDER OF INNOCENT PEOPLE INTO STATE POLICY.

4. IN SAME VEIN BEIRUT-DATELINED PRAVDA STORY BY CORRESPONDENT OREKHOV (MAY 22) CHARGES ISRAELI LEADERS WITH TREACHERY AT MAALOT.

5. IN PARALLEL WITH ANTI-ISRAELI INVECTIVE, INDIRECT INDICATIONS OF MOVEMENT ON DISENGAGEMENT ARE CREEPING INTO SOVIET PRESS. SHORT TASS ITEM ON SYRIAN GOVERNMENT STATEMENT (PRAVDA MAY 22) RAISES THE CURTAIN A BIT MORE FOR THE SOVIET READER ON THE PROSPECT THAT A DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT MAY BE IMMINENT. TASS SUMMARIZES MAIN POINTS AS SYRIAN ASSURANCE THAT IN DISENGAGEMENT TALKS DAMASCUS IS STRIVING FOR ATTAINMENT OF TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED LANDS AND SECURING OF PALESTINIAN NATIONAL RIGHTS. ACCORDING TASS, STATEMENT ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT SYRIA CONSIDERS DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES FIRST STEP TOWARD SETTLEMENT IN ME. STOESEL

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